



The BOC Group plc
c/o R G C Jenkins & Co
26 Caxton Street
London
SW1H 0RJ

Your Reference:
Application No: GB0406141.2

24 August 2004

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

Other search results

If you have applied to another patent office for a patent for this invention you will be receiving from them the results of their search. If you decide to proceed with the present application you are asked to provide me with a copy of any such official search report; or to email identifying details of the cited documents (including any category assigned in the report) to the email address above.

Cut-off date This request applies to search reports that you have received before the date when you send a response to our first examination report under section 18(3) or section 18(4); if you make no response to an initial section 18(4) report the cut-off date is two months after the date of that report. Tell us about a search report sooner rather than later if that would allow it to be considered during our first examination.

Exceptions You do not have to supply details of a search report that (1) shows a nil response, or (2) has been published by WIPO or EPO, or (3) you have already supplied to us on a previous GB application.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 9 August 2005. At this time

¹Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** – after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 9 August 2005 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

Beverley Lloyd
Examiner



Application No: GB0406141.2

Examiner: Beverley Lloyd

Claims searched: 1 - 27

Date of search: 23 August 2004

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1 - 27	US6416645 B1 (SAMPSON) See Figs, abstract and col 17, ll 32 - 45, col 18, ll 1 - 12 at least
X	1, 9 - 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 24 & 25	US6200448 B1 (RICHARD) See Fig 1 & cols 3 - 4 at least

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W:

B1D; B2J

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC^W

B01D; B03C; C02F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO